

3i8 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

pride, and the great delight I had to be a queen. But alas, they did little know me, who thought me guilty of that; I had been only for a regency, and wisht for nothing else; I had never ^x dreaded being queen, liking my condition much better (and indeed I was not deceived); but the good of the public was to be preferd and I protest, God knows my heart, that what I say is true, that I have had more* trouble to b[r]ing my self to bear this so envied estate then I should have had to have been reduced to the lowest condition in the world.²

The comments of Evelyn, unaware of the motives which governed Mary, show that contemporary observers thought that

the . Princess, would have showed some (seeming) reluctance at least, of assuming her father's crown, and made some apology, testifying her regret that he should by his mismanagement necessitate the nation to so extraordinary a proceeding, which would have showed very handsomely to the world, and according to the character given of her piety; . . . but nothing of all this appeared; she came into Whitehall laughing and jolly, as to a wedding, so as to seem quite transported. She rose early the next morning, and in her undress, as it was reported, before her women were up, went about from room to room to see the convenience of Whitehall; lay in the same bed and apartment where the late Queen lay, and within a night or two sat down to play at basset, as the Queen her predecessor used to do. She

smiled upon and talked to everybody, so that
no change
seemed to have taken place at court since her
last going
away, save that infinite crowds of people
thronged to see
her, and that she went to our prayers. This
carriage was
censured by many.³

¹ *Sic* in Doebner, but probably * ever ' is correct.

² Doebner, pp. 10-11.

³ Diary, Feb. 21, 1689.